

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00  
ACDA-12 OMB-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 /102 W  
-----007583 131618Z /45

O 131547Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4214  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 01403

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EG IS  
SUBJECT: MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: CAIRO 1402

SUMMARY: MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE HAS RECESSED. IT APPARENT .  
THAT LITTLE PROGRESS MADE AND TWO SIDES REMAIN FAR APART  
ON BASIC ISSUES DESPITE EFFORTS BY GAMASY AND WEIZMAN  
TO DIRECT ATTENTION TO PROCEDURE. END SUMMARY.  
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1. SETTLEMENTS. MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE MET TWICE JAN 12  
FOR TOTAL OF 4-1/2 HOURS. AT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE FOL-  
LOWING MORNING SESSION GAMASY DECLARED EGYPT'S INTERNA-  
TIONAL BORDERS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE. PRESSED ON SETTLEMENTS,  
GAMASY REPLIED THIS ONE OF ISSUES WHICH PARTIES WILL CON-  
TINUE EXAMINE. WEIZMAN AGREED GAP EXISTS BUT SAID HE

BELIEVED IT WOULD BE BRIDGED. ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE, WEIZMAN REPLIED "TALKS ARE PROGRESS IN THEMSELVES." ON ISRAELI AIRFIELDS IN SINAI, WEIZMAN HEDGED AS HE DID ON QUESTION STATUS SHARM AL-SHEIKH, NOTING DIFFICULTY OF DEPLOYMENT OF AIRCRAFT IN SMALL COUNTRY AND IMPORTANCE OF STRAITS OF TIRAN.

2. NATURE OF MEETINGS. GAMASY STRESSED MILITARY SUB-COMMITTEE PART OF OVERALL CAIRO CONFERENCE AIMED AT COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. EMPHASIZED DISCUSSIONS HAVE JUST BEGUN AND ARE CONTINUING. GAMASY SAID THAT, WHILE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERING MILITARY ISSUES RELATIVE TO OVER-ALL SETTLEMENT, THEY ARE CONCENTRATING ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS PENDING POLITICAL SUBCOMMITTEE DECISION ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE. SUBSEQUENT MILITARY DISCUSSIONS WILL BE BASED ON POLITICAL DECISIONS.

3. ATMOSPHERE. WEIZMAN TOLD PRESS HE AND GAMASY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING SERIOUS AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF DEFENSE ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY DURING PAST 24 HOURS. OPINED THAT OPEN AND FRANK WAY IN WHICH SIDES ARE TALKING INDICATES WAY WILL BE FOUND TO SOLVE "SOME OF THE PROBLEMS." WEIZMAN CLAIMED TWO SIDES HAD DISCUSSED EACH SPECIFIC PROBLEM AND ARE DOING THEIR BEST. EGYPT GAVE NUMEROUS PROPOSALS ON ITS VIEWS OF DEFENSE COMMITMENTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE TO ISRAELI PRESENTATION ON SECURITY. TWO SIDES, "WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS GAP BETWEEN THEIR POSITIONS."

4. INNOCENT PASSAGE. ASKED ABOUT WEIZMAN REFERENCE AT OPENING SESSION TO WATER WAYS, GAMASY REPLIED THIS MEANT INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH TIRAN STRAITS. ISSUE, GAMASY CONTINUED, NOT DISCUSSED IN MILITARY COMMITTEE SINCE THIS FALLS WITHIN COMPETENCE OF JERUSALEM SESSIONS.

5. LAND SWAP. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF LAND BETWEEN RAFAH AND NEGEV, GAMASY DUCKED, SAYING "QUESTION SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN IT COMES UP."

6. TRAVEL. WEIZMAN, DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, AND ISRAELI MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SHLOMO GAZIT DEPART CAIRO 1300 TODAY FOR JERUSALEM. GENERAL TAMIR WILL BE IN TEMPORARY CHARGE ISRAELI DELEGATION, ALTHOUGH NO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ARE ANTICIPATED UNTIL FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM JERUSALEM.

7. EDITORIALS. PAPERS CONTINUE FOCUS ON SETTLEMENTS AS LITMUS TEST FOR SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

GUMHURIYYA'S MAIN EDITORIAL SAID THIS ISSUE OF MOST IMPORTANCE AND ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT. PAPER STATED ISRAEL HAS BEEN NOTICEABLY ACTIVE IN CONSOLIDATING ITS 18 SETTLEMENTS IN RECENT DAYS AND NOTED JAN 12 NEWS REPORT THAT YAMIT PLANNED TO REACH POPULATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND BY YEAR 2000. GUMHURIYYA CLAIMED BOUNDARIES KNOWN AND ACKNOWLEDGED FOR 7,000 YEARS. NOBODY HAS RIGHT TO BARGAIN OVER THIS LAND OR TO IMAGINE EGYPT WOULD AGREE TO BARGAIN. CONCLUDED, AS SADAT HAS DECLINED, EGYPTIAN NATIONAL SOIL IS EGYPTIAN HONOR AND SACRED LAND.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y(PARAS 8 AND 9 VICE 9 AND 10)

8. AKHBAR'S MOUSSA SABRI QUOTED UNNAMED ISRAELI INTELLECTUAL AS SAYING SINAI SETTLEMENTS ISSUE COMPLICATED

BY ISRAELI PARTISAN AND CABINET POLITICS. IF PUT TO THE ELECTORATE, BEGIN WOULD OBTAIN OUTRIGHT APPROVAL FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM SETTLEMENTS. QUESTION IS, SABRI CONCLUDED, WILL BEGIN BE ABLE TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISION OF FACING HARD LINERS IN HIS OWN PARTY AND OPPOSITION.

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9. IN SEERATE COMMENTARY, GUMHURIYYA POINTED OUT ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY FLAGRANT VIOLATION GENEVA CONVENTION. THIS NOT SURPRISING, SINCE "ISRAEL CARES NOTHING FOR UNITED NATIONS' RESOLUTIONS." HOWEVER, COLUMNIST VIEWED ISRAEL SECURITY AGRUMENT ON SETTLEMENTS AS STRANGE AND UNTENABLE. RECALLED THAT EVEN MOSHE DAYAN, WRITING ABOUT 1956 ISRAELI-ARAB WAR POINTED OUT FUTILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN IN DESERT CONDITIONS FIXED POINTS OF DEFENSE. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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